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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. FJN-077

#13 2/8/02 T. Gray

APPLICANT(S): Tani et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/423,905 GROUP NO.: 1645
FILING DATE: March 19, 1999 EXAMINER: P. Duffy
TITLE: Therapeutic Agent for Preventing and/or Treating Sepsis

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 28, 2001, for the above-referenced patent application. Applicants enclose a petition and fee for a one-month extension of time. In the event of a fee deficiency, please charge deposit account no. 20-0531.

The Office Action alleges that the pending claims define three inventions that do not form a "single general inventive concept": Group I, claims 2-11 and 13-22, drawn to methods using TCF-II; Group II, claims 12 and 23 as limited to methods using hepatocyte growth factor; and Group III, claims 12 and 23 as limited to methods using scatter factor. The Office Action requires election of a single invention to which the claims will be restricted. Applicant elects the invention of Group I, claims 2-11 and 13-22.